

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the title is objected to as allegedly not being descriptive. Applicant amends the title, as indicated herein, and submits that this amendment obviates the Examiner's objection to the title.

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 9-12 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-8 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jaramillo et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,178,477), hereinafter referred to as Jaramillo, in view of Cohen (U.S. Patent No.: 5,729,766).

With respect to independent claim 1, the Examiner alleges that Jaramillo satisfies almost all the limitations of this claim, except the Examiner acknowledges that Jaramillo does not disclose delivering a command to the second device at a point in time which is less than or equal to a latency time of the second device. The Examiner, however, alleges that Cohen makes up for the deficiencies of Jaramillo. Specifically, the Examiner states "Cohen discloses the step of delivering a command to the second device at a point in time which is less than or equal to a latency time of the second device (see col. 12, lines 6-24)". In response, contrary to the Examiner, Applicant submits that Cohen does not teach or suggest at least "delivering a second command to a second slave device..." as recited in claim 1. That is, the cited portion of Cohen only discusses a delay between the memory request and the memory access (*see col. 12, lines 6-7*) and a second delay period within the same memory that extends from termination of the memory access signal to the beginning of the memory cycle completion signal. Nowhere, however, does Cohen even mention the specific limitations set forth in claim 1; that is, Cohen

fails to even mention at least delivering a second command to a second device. As noted above, the “delay time” cited by the Examiner is simply the delay within one and the same memory. Applicant’s claim 1, instead, recites delivery of a second command to a second slave device. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-5 are patentable at least by virtue of their indirect or direct dependency from independent claim 1.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 2, Applicant submits that the applied references do not teach or suggest the specific limitations set forth in this claim, including those included in step (b1), in particular. The Examiner does not even address this particular limitation in the Office Action.

With respect to independent claims 6 and 13, the Examiner alleges that Jaramillo satisfies almost all the limitations of these claims, except the Examiner acknowledges that Jaramillo does not disclose “providing respective difference values between a longest of the latency times of all the slave devices and the latency time of each slave device; delivering a command to the second device at a point in time which is less than or equal to a latency time of the second device”. The Examiner, however, alleges that Cohen makes up for the deficiencies of Jaramillo, and cites col. 4, line 65 through col. 5, line 15 of Cohen, as well as col. 12, lines 6-24. In response, first, Applicant submits that nowhere do any of the cited portions of Cohen teach or suggest at least “providing respective difference values between a longest of the latency times of all the slave devices and the latency time of each slave device,” as recited in claim 6, and similarly recited in claim 13. That is, Cohen essentially, only discusses storing the number of machine cycles required for each instruction by the microprocessor itself, but nowhere does Cohen discuss the

specific limitations quoted above. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claims 6 and 13 are patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 7 and 14 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 6 and 13.

Finally, with respect to independent claim 8, Applicant submits that this claim is patentable over the applied references at least for reasons similar to those set forth above for independent claim 1, as claim 8 recites limitations that are similar to claim 1 and distinguishable over the applied references.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

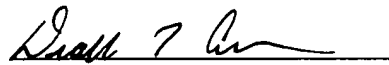
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